

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

Reserve

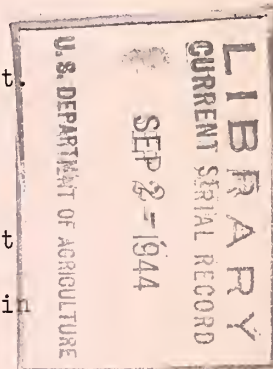
W A R T I M E E X T E N S I O N W O R K

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS BASED ON STATE REPORTS

...- V ...-

Some items in this week's summary:

Efforts made to solve problems arising from drought.
County agents make tours of experiment stations to keep up with research developments.
Labor and machinery pools help farmers to maintain production.
State-wide conferences planned on land resettlement for returning veterans.
Large demand for instruction on combine operation in soybean fields.



...- V ...-

ARKANSAS
August 1, 1944

Meeting drought situation.- Conference of State agricultural leaders, called by Associate Extension Director Gates, was held at Little Rock. Aim was to plan fall programs of production, conservation, utilization, and services, for farmers faced with increasingly grave situation created by continued hot, dry weather. Representatives of State and Federal agricultural agencies took part. Conference was agreed that intensified seeding of small grains this fall will be farmers' best opportunity to offset effects of drought and to provide feed for critical period ahead. Increase in small-grain acreage from about 400,000, planted in 1943-44, to 750,000, was recommended. Emphasis was placed on planting of fall oats. In addition, small acreages of barley, rye, ryegrass, or wheat should be planted to furnish more grazing and to prevent overgrazing of oats. Since procuring seed of approved varieties is one of farmers' problems in increasing small-grain acreage, members of group decided to designate locations for pooling and arrange for finding needed seed.

With exception of hogs, Arkansas has largest numbers of livestock ever on hand, in spite of last year's feed shortage. As feed may be even harder to get this year, rigid culling was recommended.

Hay crops already damaged so severely as to be virtually worthless as feed would be better left in field to produce possible late crop, members of group explained. All meadows that would still yield crop of fair-quality hay should be cut at

once; however, as hay remaining in field during drought undergoes continued loss of quality. Damaged soybean crops that would not produce satisfactory yields of beans should be cut while still of fair quality for hay. Corn badly damaged by drought should be cut while green and made into silage or fodder, or if feed is badly needed, should be fed green.

Pooling of labor and machinery.- In St. Charles neighborhood in south Arkansas County, cooperation between neighbors has enabled farmers to maintain production in spite of severe scarcity of labor and machinery. Nine farmers have pooled 28 tractors, 6 combines, 17 rice binders, 9 threshing machines, 1 butane pumping plant, and 10 oil-burning pumping plants. Their farms are producing 1,800 acres of rice, 280 of oats, 2,100 of lespedeza, 450 of soybeans, 150 of cotton, and 200 acres of corn. By pooling labor on nine farms they have been successful in maintaining operating crews for all machinery when needed. Besides operators of farms, 20 laborers and 10 pumping-plant operators are in pool. Women contribute to operation of farms by making trips to get repairs and supplies. This pool of labor and machinery has baled 500 tons of lespedeza and 70 tons of oat straw. Planting of 400 acres of oats is planned for fall. Some extra labor will be necessary in rice harvest, but not much difficulty is expected.

Garland County has organized 12 labor and machinery pools that are doing excellent work. This is only way farmers in county are able to carry on, because of scarcity of labor for general farm work. In Pleasant Hill community, for example, farmer who has hay press and other haymaking equipment is swapping work with five others so that all can store winter supply of hay. They have already put up about 1,400 bales, which will go far in feeding their cattle.

Pasture improvement.- W. W. Chambers of Mt. Olive community has one of outstanding pastures in Saline County. Six years ago he cleared some low ground, seeded it to carpet grass, and sodded it to Bermuda grass. He made two annual applications of triple superphosphate of 100 pounds an acre. Since establishing and improving his pasture, he has more than doubled carrying capacity. Twenty acres of this pasture will provide enough grass for 25 head of cattle.

OHIO

August 10, 1944

Drought and farm labor.- Two chief current problems are computing farm labor requirements for rest of year and keeping informed on drought conditions to be able to advise farmers when to abandon corn and soybeans as grain crops and harvest them for silage and forage. Two problems are closely related, as corn harvested for grain requires a lot more labor than when cut for silage, but making soybean hay demands more manpower than combining soybeans for grain. Drought conditions vary widely even in neighboring areas. Local showers have been sufficient in some sections when no rain has fallen in surrounding territory. Crops in one-third of State are badly damaged, and another one-third of State still has prospects for good corn and soybean yields. Information on emergency measures will be broadcast if field reports warrant such action.

As continued dry weather has decreased amount of necessary farm work, nearly all calls for seasonal farm labor have been met. Shortage of experienced men available for hire by month or year continues. Most labor problems have been met by farmer labor exchange, by increased use of power machinery, and by longer working hours for farmer and his family. Indicated downward adjustment of livestock herds is due as much to uncertainty about feed supplies as to lack of labor to care for livestock.

4-H Club Activities.- July report on 4-H Club enrollment shows slight decrease from that of 1943, but increased emphasis on production projects has maintained 4-H contribution to food stores, conservation of food, salvage of war materials, and sale and purchase of war stamps and bonds. Enrollments have taxed housing facilities at every 4-H camp held. Clubs are being organized to gather milkweed floss.

Combines and hay driers.- Agricultural engineers have had large number of requests for schools of instruction on combine operation in soybean fields. Meetings have been well attended, and farmer operators of combines report planned work schedules to get all possible hours of service from power machinery. Ohio farmers are becoming interested in equipment for drying hay in barns, and several installations have been placed in operation this year.

Milk marketing.- Study of milk marketing in four Ohio areas shows that abandonment of base and surplus plan of milk buying has caused great increase in spring and early summer milk production, as compared with volume produced in fall. This shift takes away effect of much extension work previously done toward equalizing spring and fall milk production and may result in future difficulties between producers and distributors on milk prices.

Poultry.- Poultry specialists are emphasizing retention of better year-old hens, because reduction in number of chicks raised will result in too few pullets. Keeping old birds necessitates closer culling, as only best producers can return profit at present egg-feed ratio. Specialists prepared for county agricultural agents series of stories on poultry culling to be used in local newspapers.

Alfalfa and clover seed.- Considerable effort has been expended to point out need for increased production of alfalfa and clover seed. Ohio acreages of clover and alfalfa have been sacrificed to increase soybean production, and present drought has killed many 1944 seedlings. Even with normal seed supply, legume acreage in Ohio would be much below normal safety margin for maintenance of soil productivity in 1945 and 1946.

WASHINGTON
August 1, 1944

"Produce, plan, and save."- New program temporarily called "Toward Successful Farming," will feature three main divisions--"Produce, Plan, and Save." To call more attention to extension wartime activities, State-wide tour of demonstration projects is being arranged for late fall and early winter. Exhibits will be furnished by both State and county offices.

Resettlement program.- Training meetings on land resettlement and development, particularly for returning veterans and war workers who may want to farm, are scheduled for September. These State-wide conferences will carry on land-classification work, discuss land values, and plan placement of veterans and others on economical farm units capable of supporting farm family. Training meetings are to reach agreement on recommendations for prospective settlers, and to set up advisory committees to help county agents serve veterans better.

4-H Clubs.- County 4-H Club camps have been held in 34 counties. Camps provide regular instruction in 4-H projects, as well as recreation. Farm and home safety have been special features at most camps. 4-H enrollments have increased in 1944. Washington 4-H Club members, for first time in several years, are taking part in national contests. State Council for Cooperatives, farm organization, is sponsoring State-wide demonstration contest this year for first time. In addition to national and State contests and regular projects, 4-H livestock club members will take part in two shows this fall, at Spokane, Wash., and at Portland, Oreg.

County agent conferences.- To keep county extension workers fully informed on newest developments in agricultural experiment projects, series of county agents' field days is being held at State experiment stations. At these meetings agents are shown what is going on, new developments are explained, and agents ask questions about recommendations of new varieties, new insect control methods, and the like. Meetings have been found helpful in keeping agents informed on wartime developments.

Farm labor.- Supervisor reports smooth sailing so far in farm labor situation. During June extension labor offices placed 37,548 farm workers as compared with but 15,924 for same month last year. About 5,000 Mexican nationals are in State. With help of these and local volunteers, farmers were able to get through season of peak labor demands with no shortage. Some localities even had temporary surplus of farm workers. In 1 week of peak period King County extension labor office alone placed 2,746 workers. From April 1 to June 1 extension labor offices had placed 1,230 year-round farm workers. One extension youth camp is being operated for 250 boys and girls in berry districts of western Washington. Several other temporary camps are planned for apple-harvest peak in fall.